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Admiralty-Office, October 21, 1798.

LIEUTENANT WATERHOUSE arrived here late laſt Night with the Duplicate of a Diſpatch from Sir John Borlaſe Warren, Bart. and K. B. Captain of His Majeſty's Ship Canada, to Vice-Admiral Kingſmill, of which the following is a Copy:

Canada, Lough Swilly, Ireland,
16th October, 1798.

SIR,

IN purſuance of the Orders and Inſtructions I received by the Kangaroo, I proceeded with the Ships named in the Margin *, off Achill-Head, and on the 10th Inſtant, I was joined by His Majeſty's Ships Melampus and Doris, the latter of whom I directed to look out for the Enemy off Tory Iſland, and the Roſſes; in the Evening of the ſame Day, the Amelia appeared in the Offing, when Captain Herbert informed me he had parted with the Ethalion, Anſon, and Sylph, who, with great Attention, had continued to obſerve the French Squadron ſince their ſailing on the 17th Ultimo. In the Morning of the 11th, however, theſe Two Ships alſo fell in with us, and at Noon the Enemy were diſcovered in the N. W. Quarter, conſiſting of One Ship of Eighty Guns, Eight Frigates, a Schooner, and a Brig. I immediately made the Signal for a general Chace, and to form in Succeſſion as each Ship arrived up with the Enemy, who, from their great Diſtance to Windward, and a hollow Sea, it was impoſſible to come up with before the 12th.

The Chace was continued in very bad and boiſterous Weather all Day of the 11th, and the following Night, when at Half paſt Five A. M. they were ſeen at a little Diſtance to Windward, the Line of Battle Ship having loſt her Main Top Maſt.

The Enemy bore down and formed their Line in cloſe Order upon the Starboard Tack, and from the Length of the Chace, and our Ships being ſpread, it was impoſſible to cloſe with them before Seven A. M. when I made the Robuſt's Signal to lead, which was obeyed with much Alacrity, and the Reſt of the Ships to form in Succeſſion in the Rear of the Van.

The Action commenced at Twenty Minutes paſt Seven o'Clock A. M. the Roſſes bearing S. S. W. Five Leagues, and at Eleven, the Hoche, after a gallant Defence, ſtruck; and the Frigates made Sail from us: the Signal to purſue the Enemy was made immediately, and in Five Hours afterwards Three of the Frigates hauled down their Colours alſo; but they, as well as the Hoche, were obſtinately defended, all of them being heavy Frigates, and, as well as the Ship of the Line, entirely new; full of Troops and Stores, with every Neceſſary for the Eſtabliſhment of their Views and Plans in Ireland.

* Canada, Robuſt, Foudroyant, and Magnanime.

I am happy to ſay, that the Efforts and Conduct of every Officer and Man in the Squadron ſeemed to have been actuated by the ſame Spirit, Zeal, and Unanimity, in their King and Country's Cauſe; and I feel myſelf under great Obligations to them, as well as the Officers and Men of this Ship, for their Exertions upon this Occaſion; which will, I hope, recommend them to their Lordſhips' Favour.

I left Captain Thornbrough after the Action; with the Magnanime, Ethalion, and Amelia, with the Prizes; and am ſorry to find he is not arrived; but truſt they will ſoon make their Appearance.

I have the Honor to remain, SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant,

JN. WARREN.

P. S.—The Ships with us in the Action were, the Canada, Robuſt, Foudroyant, Magnanime, Ethalion, Melampus, and Amelia.

The Anſon joined us in the latter Part of the Action, having loſt her Mizen-Maſt in Chace the Day before.

I have ſent my Firſt Lieutenant Turguand to take the Command of the Hoche.

By a Letter from Lord Viſcount Caſtlereagh to Mr. Wickham, Under Secretary of State for the Home Department, dated Dublin Caſtle, the 18th Inſtant, it appears that the Melampus had arrived off Lough Swilly with another French Frigate in Tow, in Purſuit of which ſhe had been ſent.

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